

Greetings,

I've just learned that Sinclair Broadcasting has ordered its 62 TV stations to pre-empt their regular programming and air a documentary criticizing Senator John Kerry's record in Vietnam. To air this documentary, days before the election, is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

I urge you to investigate Sinclair's decision to air what in reality is an unpaid 90-minute attack ad against Kerry. Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Sinclair is a glaring example of what happens when large companies control the airwaves: we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. This unprecedented move by Sinclair is direct electioneering by a media giant, and it is against election law.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.